

**Burns, Vanessa**

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**From:** Patricia Burke [patricia\_burke@rocketmail.com]

**Sent:** Saturday, February 26, 2011 12:03 PM

**To:** AppropriationTestimony

**Subject:** Community Colleges funding cuts

Dear esteemed member of the legislature,

I have been an adjunct faculty member at MCC for 10 years. I teach one course, Introduction to Cultural Anthropology. MCC does a stellar job at running a difficult business: having students as customers but also teaching them at a level they may not be expecting. Community colleges serve students who are fairly unprepared for college level work. Every faculty member knows this and attempts to accommodate their needs.

Therefore, I believe the following to be important and need to be taken into account:

1. Administrative support is key to faculty being able to have the time to successfully prepare and teach.
2. College Administrators run the business which is teaching students to be successful in college and to learn to be critical thinkers. Administrators have unique perspectives on how the business should be run. That must be taken into account when deciding where and how to make cuts.
3. Ultimately the community colleges success or failure with students impacts greatly on our ability to grow a talented workforce within the state. Statistically, community college students are more likely to stay in and engage with their local communities.

In sum, please don't let our talented young people be left in the wake of less-than-thoughtful budget cuts. Please sit down with college administrators and work out a viable solution that doesn't leave out our students.

Sincerely,

Patricia Burke, M.A.  
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Turning and turning in the widening gyre | The falcon cannot hear the falconer | Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold | Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world | The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere | The ceremony of innocence is drowned | The best lack all conviction, while the worst | Are full of passionate intensity. — W.B. Yeats, The Second Coming